

We are thankful to Dr A. K. Ghosh, Eastern Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, for his encouragement and for kindly going through the manuscript.

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January 4, 1977.

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## 4. *LEPUS ARABICUS* EHRENBERG FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR: ADDITION TO THE MAMMALIAN FAUNA OF INDIA

During the faunistic survey of Jammu and Kashmir in 1974 a specimen of the Arabian Hare, *Lepus arabeus* Ehrenberg was collected from Udhampur, southeastern Jammu and Kashmir, which according to Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951) has not heretofore been recorded from India. Since a detailed report on the collection will take some time to come out, it is thought desirable to record this addition to the mammalian fauna of India.

### *Lepus arabeus* Ehrenberg

1833. *Lepus arabeus* Ehrenberg, *Symb. Phys. Mamm.*, 2: Sig. r. (Qunfidha, Arabia)

**Material:**

1♂: Jhajjar Kotli, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir; 13 Nov. 1975; coll. S. Chakraborty.

### **Measurements:**

External: Head and body 352 mm; Tail

112 mm, Hindfoot, 91 mm; Ear 123 mm.

Cranial: Occipitonasal 69 mm; Nasal 29.6 mm; Bullae 12 mm; Upper tooth row 11.3 mm; Frontal 15.7 mm; Mesopterygoid space 6.2 mm.

### *Distribution:*

According to Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951) *Lepus arabeus* is known to occur in Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Libya and Baluchistan. Therefore, the present material not only constitutes its first record from India, but also extends its range further eastward.

### *Remarks:*

The specimen from Jammu and Kashmir agrees with the description of *Lepus craspedotis* Blanford (currently known as *Lepus arabeus craspedotis*) given by Kloss (1918), but the black bands of hair at the posterior

half of the back are much conspicuous and broader than that of the holotype of *craspedotis* and two more August specimens from

Baluchistan present in the Zoological Survey of India collection.

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January 4, 1977.

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KLOSS, C. B. (1918): Notes on some hares in the Indian Museum with descriptions of two new forms. *Rec. Ind. Mus.* 15:89-96.

#### 5. A MELANISTIC EXAMPLE OF WOOLLY FLYING SQUIRREL, *EUPETAURUS CINEREUS* THOMAS (RODENTIA: SCIURIDAE)

Literature on the interesting Woolly Flying Squirrel, *Eupetaurus cinereus* Thomas, is scanty and our knowledge about its coloration is due to Thomas (1888), Blanford (1891), Ellerman (1963) and Agrawal & Chakraborty (1970). While going through the collection of squirrels present in the Bombay Natural History Society, we came across four specimens of this species, three similar to the Syntype present in the Zoological Survey of India, the fourth very different from the rest in colour, a fact still unrecorded and therefore, reported here.

The specimen (BNHS Reg. No. 7109, without date and sex) was collected by Mr. H. J. Fulton from Chitral, Pakistan. Its entire body including the tail, is covered with thick, long,

woolly fur, seal Brown (of Ridgway 1886) in colour. A few hairs on the chin are white tipped. Body is devoid of any grizzling either of gray, ashy or brown. This appears to be a case of partial melanism which is not very uncommon in squirrels. Anderson (1879) reported a large flying squirrel from Kashmir, kept in the Leyden Museum, as "almost jet black on all the upper parts but slightly brownish on the upper surface of forelimbs and flying membrane. The cheeks, chin, throat, chest and belly are brownish with gray line along the middle of the belly." Anderson (op. cit.) regarded it as a melanoid example of *Petaurista petaurista albiventer* (Gray) but Thomas (op. cit.) based on the description, attributed it to *E. cinereus*.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
8, LINDSAY STREET,  
CALCUTTA 16,  
January 4, 1977.

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